

Appl. No: 10/642,277

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REMARKS

The Examiner states that there are four inventions claimed in the instant application. He identifies these as:

GROUP I

Claims 1-21 and 38-40, drawn to methods of isolating target polynucleotides by hybridization.

GROUP II

Claims 22-23, drawn to methods of isolating and identifying target polynucleotides by primer extension.

GROUP III

Claims 24-28, 31-35 and 36 in part, drawn to methods of isolating, identifying and cloning target polynucleotides by nucleic acid amplification.

GROUP IV

Claims 29-30 and 36 in part, drawn to methods of primer selection and synthesis.

The Examiner states that Claim 37 links inventions I and II, and indicates that the Restriction Requirement between the linked inventions will only be applied should linking claim 37 be finally rejected.

The Examiner also indicates that inventions I-III are directed to related processes, but these inventions are distinct because they employ different modes of operation and function. Similarly, he indicates that Groups I and IV, II and IV, and III and IV are related processes but are either not capable of use together or have materially different designs, modes of operation, functions or effects.

Applicants elect to pursue the claims of Group III (i.e. claims 24-28, 31-35 and 36 in part).

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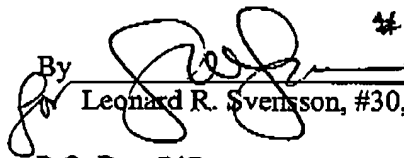
Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable response and allowance of the claims.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1055 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

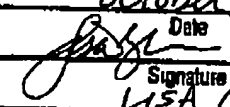
In the event that Deposit Account No. 50-1055 has insufficient funds, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this reply to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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